

ALEC's Legislative Agenda on Jobs & the Economy

On American Legislative Exchange Council task forces, corporate lobbyists and special interests vote as equals with elected representatives on templates to change our laws, behind closed doors with no press or public allowed to see the votes or deliberations. ALEC economic and job-related legislation caters to those corporate interests. It includes proposals that would tilt the tax code in favor of wealthy corporations, privatize Medicare and Social Security, lower wages, eliminate employee rights, ship American jobs overseas, and remove protections for American consumers.

Creating or Expanding Loopholes for the Richest Corporations and Individuals

- ALEC's "[Capital Gains Tax Elimination Act](#)" protects wealthy investors and denies revenue from windfall income derived without labor that could help fund basic services.
- The "[Resolution to Repeal the Federal Unified Gift and Estate Tax](#)" is one several model bills by ALEC that repeals taxes on large estates, giving more loopholes to the heirs of the wealthiest few.
- ALEC's "[Flat Tax Option Act](#)" would create a "flat tax" system that ignores the way such a tax would burden middle and working class families, and would give big tax breaks to richer Americans by abandoning progressive taxation rates.
- ALEC's "[Real Estate and Economic Growth Resolution](#)" is a resolution encouraging the end of capital gains taxes and the flow of more money into real estate, including greater investment of pension funds in real estate. The resolution advocates for similar policies to those that led to the housing bubble in the mid-2000s.

Privatizing Medicare and Social Security

- ALEC's "[Resolution Urging Congress to Create Private Individual Medical Accounts](#)" proposes to privatize Medicare by permitting the creation of individual medical accounts. It is doubtful that such accounts would be able to cover the cost of necessary medical care for seniors, and this bill would probably serve as a tax shelter for the wealthiest few.
- ALEC's "[Resolution Urging Congress to Modernize the Social Security System with Personal Retirement Accounts](#)" advocates for the privatization of Social Security with personal retirement accounts, which would weaken the stream of income into the Social Security Trust Fund, undermining the long-term viability of Social Security

Removing Protections for American Consumers

- ALEC's "[Resolution Urging Congress to Oppose Measures Designed to Impose Ceilings on Credit Card Rates](#)" advocates for American consumers to be subject to unlimited interest rates and fees for credit cards.

- ALEC’s “[Resolution on Negative Impacts of Pharmaceutical Price Controls](#)” opposes all cost controls on prescription drugs.
- ALEC’s “[Housing Affordability Impact Statement Act](#)” is designed to interfere with regulations aimed at ensuring safe and affordable housing.

Lowering Wages

- ALEC’s “[Resolution in Opposition to any Increase in the Starting \(Minimum\) Wage](#)” opposes efforts to raise the minimum wage.
- ALEC’s “[Living Wage Mandate Preemption Act](#)” allows states to prevent cities and counties from setting minimum wages that exceed those required under state or federal law.
- ALEC’s “[Right To Work Act](#)” is an attack on working families across the country. Wages are 3.2 percent (\$1,500) lower in so-called “right to work” states than in free bargaining states.¹

Taking Away Employee Rights

- ALEC’s “[At-will Employment Act](#)” narrows and eliminates key rights and protections of workers, allowing an employer to terminate a worker at any time for any reason or no reason at all. The act also restricts workers’ rights to sue.
- ALEC’s “[Workers’ Compensation Medical Records Disclosure Act](#)” allows employers access to a worker’s psychiatric or other records without the consent of the worker.
- ALEC’s “[Resolution Opposing Employer-Paid Health Care Mandates](#)” opposes efforts by state legislatures to mandate that private employers buy health insurance for workers.

Shipping Jobs Overseas

- ALEC bills in support of the [Columbia Free Trade Agreement](#), [Panama Trade Promotion Agreement](#), [US-Korea Free Trade Agreement](#), and its “[Resolution Urging the Obama Administration to Launch Negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement with Taiwan](#)” all advocate for an aggressive free trade agenda, which has resulted in millions of American jobs being outsourced overseas.

¹ Economic Policy Institute: “[The compensation penalty of ‘right-to-work’ laws](#)”